

A Town I Like To Come Home To

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meeting because the sense of Cohasset town meeting is pretty well controlled, reasonable, and more or less in line with my own reason. If I get excited someday about something, maybe I'll go." Rube has never voted, either.

"In relative terms, town government is probably the best control the taxpayer has. My real gripe is with the state. Although town meeting is important, it doesn't have as much control on a day-to-day basis. There are gigantic gross insufficiencies in federal government and equivalent inefficiency in state government."

When we asked how Rube would propose to deal with government at elevated levels, he said, "I'd have to quit my job and work 16 hour days for the rest of my life."

Rube feels that the word neighborhood is a city word and doesn't really have full meaning in suburbia. "I feel no need for a neighborhood association in my area (South Main St.). I'm sure if there were a need it would have been developed a long time ago."

Marie McCarthy of Old Pasture Road foresees more neighborhood solidarity as a result of the energy crisis. But at the same time, "I feel Cohasset is a very insular community. People are cut off, wrapped up in their own little worlds, and the worlds of their children. They're very content — I think."

"Every so often our neighborhood gets together and has a yard sale — but we're not a political or a pressure group. There's a feeling if you need anything, you just have to call. In a crisis my neighbors are there when you need them."

Roger Porter of Elm Street, and several others, expressed the fact that they and their families had made a commitment to live in Cohasset. At a certain stage on the corporate trail, Roger had enough, and started his own business in town.

He said he used to be involved in town politically, but is no longer willing to get involved politically. "It's boring. I am involved with a private non-profit group called Conservation Trust. We own a portion of Bassings Beach, and we have large-scale fundraising so we can buy other properties. We also own the Salt House beside Hugos. I think the town's very fortunate. The open lands in Cohasset have been preserved."

Roger used to attend town meeting, but no longer. "There is always a certain vocal minority who show up and speak for a long period of time. I don't feel a lot is accomplished at town meeting."

He feels there might be a lack of places for kids to go in Cohasset — but that's a problem in every town. He doesn't see the town having any big, insurmountable problems, and he's content with his neighborhood. But he feels his social outlets come from a variety of circles outside the neighborhood.

Clover was the only person in the group who said she might be able to leave Cohasset because she thrives on a more urban atmosphere. "But realistically, I don't know if I could. I believe there are a

mixture of people in Cohasset — but they're not visible."

None of the 15 felt their indifference to town politics makes them apathetic. In so many words, many individuals expressed the thought that there is as much freedom and self-direction in a town ridden with custom, as there is in a dynamic society.

"Cohasset is not always running hither and thither after some new thing. This town has always been safe from the invasion of novelty," still another nameless individual said.

Roger said he knows of at least one couple who recently left Cohasset and experienced a cultural shock. "They are in the process of moving back."

Rube said: "I spend all week long in traffic, in job-related problems. When I drive into Cohasset it's beautiful. There are no shacks to greet me. I relax as soon as I hit the town line. I will die here."

Clover is less pleased. "I don't buy Cohasset as being an ideal place to raise kids. There's no community." Marie McCarthy disagrees. "I feel there are various outlets in the community. The community center is trying to reach out. A lot of new people

are moving into town." According to State Rep. Mary Jeanette Murray, at least 200 families per year move into the town.

If there is a summary to be made from all of these various conversations, then it must be

that Cohasset is content with itself, not necessarily smug, nor resigned, but content. And if we can depend upon "Rube" and people like him to "get excited" someday should something outrageous happen...we'll be OK.

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